

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein the mobile electronic communication device is configured to receive messages of two or more types, wherein the processor unit is further configured to cause the ~~light unit~~ virtual keys to manifest a further appearance of ~~outputting the light illumination~~ with modulation that depends on the type of message received from the corresponding contacts~~message's type~~.

62. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein each virtual key of said virtual keypad ~~manifesting the appearance of being illuminated is~~ a numeric virtual key associated with a contact of said contact list, ~~and each message is received from the associated contact of said contact list.~~

63. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein the processor unit is further configured to operate the first and the second virtual keys in an alternate mode to

initiate a message operation addressed to the first contact in response to the selection, by the user, of the first virtual key, and

initiate a message operation addressed to the second contact in response to the selection, by the user, of the second virtual key.

64. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein the processor unit is configured to cause the virtual keys to manifest a ~~further appearance of outputting of light with modulation color based that depends~~ on an age of a message received by the mobile electronic communication device from the corresponding contacts.

65. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim ~~[[64]]~~61, wherein the manifested ~~modulated light~~modulation ~~has is~~ a manifested modulation of color that depends on the age of a received message.

66. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim ~~[[64]]~~73, wherein the manifested ~~modulated light~~ has appearance of being in motion is a manifested appearance of blinking at a rate that indicates a number of unread messages received from a contact.

67. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device in claim ~~[[64]]~~73, wherein the ~~message animated virtual key~~ manifests an appearance of a motion selected from the group consisting of rotating, vibrating, and morphing into another image ~~is a most recent message received from a contact~~.

68. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim ~~[[67]]~~64, wherein the message is an unread message received from the corresponding contact.

69. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 64, wherein the ~~relative~~ age is indicated using a plurality of predetermined age categories.

70. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 69, wherein each predetermined age category of the plurality of predetermined age categories is represented by a predetermined color ~~of light~~ manifested by the virtual ~~light unit~~ keys.

71. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 69, wherein each predetermined age category of the plurality of predetermined age categories is represented by a predetermined number of light flashes within a cycle manifested by the virtual key.

72. (Original) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 61, wherein the message is a SMS message.

73. (Currently Amended) A mobile electronic communications device comprising:

a transceiver;

a touch-screen display configured to display a virtual keypad having a plurality of virtual keys; and

a processor unit coupled to the transceiver and touch-screen display, wherein the processor unit is configured to

associate the virtual keys with corresponding contacts of a contact list stored on the mobile electronic communications device, each of the virtual keys of said plurality being associated with only one corresponding contact of said contact list, wherein a first contact of said contact list is associated with a first virtual key of the plurality and a second contact of said contact list is associated with a second virtual key of the plurality;

compare received message data to said contact list,

determine, based on the comparison, that a first received message is from a first contact of the contact list and that a second received message is from a second contact of said contact list,

cause a light unit to light a ~~animate the first virtual key selected from a plurality of virtual keys of the touch-screen display to indicate receipt of [[a]]the first~~

~~received~~ message from ~~[[a]]the~~ first contact of ~~[[a]]the~~ contact list ~~stored on the mobile electronic communications device, the first contact being the only contact to be associated with said first virtual key, wherein the~~ animated~~lighted~~ first virtual key manifests an appearance of being ~~illuminated~~in motion,

~~cause a light unit to light a~~ animate the second virtual key selected from a plurality of virtual keys of the touch-screen display to indicate receipt of ~~[[a]]the~~ second received message from ~~[[a]]the~~ second contact of said contact list, ~~the second contact being the only contact to be associated with said second virtual key, wherein the~~ lighted animated second virtual key manifests an appearance of being ~~illuminated~~in motion, and

~~cause the touch-screen display to display information associated with one or more~~ a first list of messages received from only the first contact in response to the selection, by a user, of the first virtual key, and

~~cause the touch-screen display to display information associated with one or more~~ a second list of messages received from only the second contact in response to the selection, by the user, of the second virtual key.

74.-79. (Canceled)

80. (Currently Amended) A mobile electronic communications device comprising:

a transceiver;

a touch-screen display configured to display a virtual keypad; and

a processor unit coupled to the transceiver and touch-screen display, wherein the processor unit is configured to

~~cause a light unit~~the touch-screen display to light ~~animate~~ one of at least four virtual keys of the ~~touch-screen display~~virtual keypad to indicate receipt of messages

from one of at least four contacts of a contact list, the contact list being stored on the mobile electronic communications device and each of the at least four contacts being associated with one of the at least four virtual keys of the touch-screen display, a first of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a first virtual key, a second of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a second virtual key, a third of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a third virtual key and a fourth of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a fourth virtual key, and wherein the ~~lighted~~animated virtual keys manifest an appearance of ~~being illuminated~~a motion selected from the group consisting of blinking, rotating, vibrating, and morphing into another shape; and

cause the touch-screen display to display ~~information associated with a list of messages to and from only the first of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by a user, of the first virtual key, display information associated with a list of messages to and from only the second of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by [[a]]the user, of the second virtual key, display information associated with a list of messages to and from only the third of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by [[a]]the user, of the third virtual key, and display information associated with a list of messages to and from only the fourth of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by [[a]]the user, of the fourth virtual key.~~

81. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 80, wherein the mobile electronic communication device is configured to receive messages of two or more types, wherein the processor unit is configured to cause the ~~light unit~~virtual keys to manifest a further appearance of outputting ~~the light~~ with modulation that depends on the received message's type.

82. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 80, wherein the processor unit is further configured to operate at least the first, second, third and fourth virtual keys in an alternate mode to initiate a message operation addressed to a

selected one of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by the user, of the virtual key associated with the selected one.

83. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 80, wherein the processor unit is configured to cause virtual keys to manifest a further appearance of outputting of light with modulation that depends on an age of a message received by the mobile electronic communication device.

84. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 83, wherein the manifested modulated light has a manifested color that depends on the age of a received message.

85. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 83, wherein the manifested modulated light has a manifested blinking rate that indicates a number of unread messages received from a contact.

86. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device in claim 83, wherein the message is a most recent message received from a contact.

87. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 83, wherein the message is an unread message received from the contact.

88. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 85, wherein the relative age is indicated using a plurality of predetermined age categories.

89. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 88, wherein each predetermined age category of the plurality of predetermined age categories is represented by a predetermined color of light manifested by the virtual light unit.

90. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 88, wherein each predetermined age category of the plurality of predetermined age categories is represented by a predetermined number of light flashes within a cycle manifested by the virtual key.